

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-63 (canceled)

64. (New) A process for purification of montelukast dicyclohexylamine salt (X) comprising:

- (a) stirring crude montelukast dicyclohexylamine salt (X) and an organic solvent solution or suspension to form a slurry;
- (b) filtering the slurry for recovering a wet cake; and
- (c) drying the wet cake under vacuum to obtain substantially pure montelukast dicyclohexylamine salt (X).

65. (New) The process of claim 64, wherein the organic solvent used in step(a) is selected from the group consisting of: an aromatic hydrocarbon and an aliphatic ester or a mixture thereof.

66. (New) The process of claim 65, wherein the aromatic hydrocarbon is toluene or xylene.

67. (New) The process of claim 65, wherein the aliphatic ester is ethyl acetate or propyl acetate.

68. (New) The process of claim 64, wherein the organic solvent used in step(a) is a mixture of toluene or xylene and ethyl acetate or propyl acetate.

69. (New) The process of claim 64, wherein said montelukast dicyclohexylamine salt (X) is crystalline solid.

70. (New) A process for the isolation of montelukast acid in solid form which

comprises:

- (a) reacting montelukast dicyclohexylamine salt (X) with aqueous acetic acid in an organic solvent;
- (b) separating the organic layer;
- (c) stirring the organic layer of step(b) at 10 °C to 40 °C;
- (d) filtering the resulting solid for recovering wet cake; and
- (e) drying the wet cake under vacuum to obtain substantially pure montelukast acid as light yellow solid.

71. (New) The process of claim 70, wherein the organic solvent used in step(a) is selected from the group consisting of: an aromatic hydrocarbon and an aliphatic ester or a mixture thereof.

72. (New) The process of claim 71, wherein the aromatic hydrocarbon is toluene or xylene.

73. (New) The process of claim 71, wherein the aliphatic ester is ethyl acetate or propyl acetate.

74. (New) The process of claim 70, wherein the organic solvent used in step(a) is a mixture of toluene or xylene and ethyl acetate or propyl acetate.

75. (New) The process of claim 70, wherein montelukast acid is isolated in solid form as light yellow solid having a melting range of 148-150 °C.

76. (New) A process for preparation of montelukast sodium in amorphous form comprising:

- (a) dissolving solid montelukast acid in methanol in presence of a source of sodium ion
- (b) removing methanol under vacuum to obtain a solid residue;

- (c) triturating the solid residue with an aliphatic hydrocarbon organic solvent;
- (d) filtering the resulting solid for recovering a wet cake; and
- (e) drying the wet cake under pressure to obtain montelukast sodium in amorphous form.

77. (New) The process of claim 76, wherein aliphatic hydrocarbon used in step (c) is selected from the group consisting of: n-pentane, n-hexane, n-heptane and n-octane or a mixture thereof.